



c.37.9 : youth groups

Cambridge YOUTH Chronicle by Mike Petty

Includes Scouts, Guides, Boys' Brigade, playgrounds and youth clubs

This is a section of *A Cambridge Chronicle*

1902 10 24

The members of the Cambridge Y.M.C.A. celebrated their jubilee with a soiree in their rooms in Alexandra Street. 50 years ago the Church of England Young Men's Society and the Sunday School Teachers' Institute amalgamated, forming the Association. It settled in Rose Crescent. In 1853 it moved to larger premises at 5, Sidney Street, moving to Hobson Place in 1858 and then St Edward's Passage. In 1870 the first stone was laid of their present building; it was completed a year later. To call the soiree a success is scarcely adequate; the visitors never had a dull moment from the time they entered the door until the National Anthem brought the evening to a close CDN 1902 10 24

1905 12 02

The Cambridge "Girl's Realm" Guild was founded in connection with the "Girl's Realm Magazine" and members do all they can for the sick by sending toys, picture-books and garments for distribution among the poor. Any boy can become a 'squire' at a subscription of one shilling. A Factory Girls

Home has been built in Kennington Road, London to assist tired work-girls who would not otherwise gain relief from the year's toil 05 12 02a

1906 06 21

One of the most worthy objects of the Rev T.W. Woods of St Barnabas Parish is for a drill hall, gymnasium and rooms for young men and boys to be erected on a piece of ground at the bottom of Covent Garden. Tenders have been opened from local builders and that of Messrs Willmott and Sons, for £1,045 was agreed. Mr Reginald Tollitt is the architect. 06 06 21

1908 02 22

Lieut.-General R.S. Baden-Powell, the famous defender of Mafeking, propounded his 'fad' – peace scouting for boys as a means of instruction in good citizenship – before a large audience at the Perse School Hall. The Vice Chancellor gave apologies from the Bishop of Ely and various college Masters, all of whom were most heartily in sympathy with the objects of the meeting. 08 02 22

1908 03 06

Following Lieut.-General Baden-Powell's recent visit, a meeting was held to consider forming a branch of the scheme of boy-scouts, perhaps as a development of the present Boys' Brigade. But Capt Norton-Fagge thought there were a large number of boys not eligible for the Boys' or Church Lads' Brigades who would be just the lads for this scheme. A number of men might take three boys each and teach them a few of the elementary principles. 08 03 06c

1908 03 12

In the St Matthew's area of Cambridge are many public houses and the poverty of small homes threw the young people into the streets in search of amusement. There were thirteen different buildings in which social evenings and gymnastic clubs were continually held throughout the week. But some young men find infinitely more pleasure in racing through the streets and hooliganism. A boys' club at the Barnwell Theatre Mission or the Coffee Tavern on Newmarket Road would be worth trying. 08 03 12b & c

1910

1910 06 10

Owing to the rapid increase of the Boy Scout movement in Cambridge a meeting was held at the Perse School to inaugurate a Boy Scouts Association. It will nominate suitable persons to act as scoutmasters, register troops and patrols, encourage the movement and work in co-operation with other boys' organisations. The Chief Scout, Sir Robert Baden-Powell will be invited to inspect the Cambridge scouts in the autumn. 10 06 10

1911

1st Girl Guide company formed [Misc.2.2]

1911 02 17

Sir Robert Baden-Powell is to inspect Cambridge boy scouts in May when troops will give demonstrations of their work. Cambridgeshire is a county in which the movement has made little progress and it is hoped his visit will arouse greater enthusiasm. A prize of a regulation B flat bugle will be awarded to the best patrol raised in a new centre. There are already twelve troops in Cambridge, which is now one of the best organised scout centres in the kingdom but more men are needed to volunteer as scoutmasters 11 02 17a

1911 02 24

Histon Troop of Peace Scouts was inspected by Sir Francis Vane, President of the British Boy Scouts who said the Histon Troop was not only the First of All in England, but the First of All in the world (great applause). War is an awful thing and the Peace Scouts were an order whose role was to rescue

and save, not destroy. Their ambulance work was performed with enthusiasm, the Morse signalling was good and the Swedish drill excellent. But they should be given training in Fire Brigade work so they could assist in passing buckets of water in an emergency. 11 03 24e

1911 05 26

Sir Robert Baden-Powell inspected 500 Boy Scouts at a grand rally in Grange Road. The assembly was one of the most remarkable that has ever taken place in Cambridge, certainly nothing like it has ever been seen in the locality before. 'B.P.' has set in motion a mighty engine. Like an electric train it has gathered way with amazing swiftness and desolate is the place that has not heard the call of the Boy Scout engaged in an errand such seeking some lost child or succouring someone in danger or distress. 11 05 26b-e

1911 09 29

A terrible shock has been dealt to scouts in Cambridge by the death of Scoutmaster William Wright, a second year undergraduate of Queens' College. Joining when he first came to Cambridge he worked with Scoutmaster Spiller of the 7th and Scoutmaster Curzon of the 1st and had already attained the 24 highest honours badges which secured him the title of 'Silver Wolf'. To him is due the success of the Cambridge Rally when Baden-Powell reviewed 500 scouts. At his home at Duffield he had a troop of his own including a patrol of fellows over 18 years of age. 11 09 29

1911 12 08

The Cambridge Chapter of the Order of World Scouts was inaugurated in St Giles church. It is intended to bind Scoutmasters and officers more closely together in their great work and ensure good men for the positions. Every member swears solemnly to obey the Scout Law. The Histon Troop of the British Boy Scouts was present as were a patrol of the Cambridge B-P Scouts. The order was inaugurated in the Chapel Royal Savoy by the Grand Scoutmaster, Sir Francis Vane when the Cambridge British Boy Scouts were represented. 11 12 08

1912 02 23

About 150 Boy Scouts took part in a convoy scheme at Histon. The idea was that a Blue Force, about 40 in number, was besieged in Histon village by a Red Force of over 60 Scouts, while a Blue relief column from Cambridge, some 40 strong, divided into two parts, each with a trek-cart, endeavoured to relieve them. The relief party, under Scoutmaster Curzon, advanced via Milton but met with serious opposition at Impington. A detachment of the Red Force was sent to hold the level crossing on the Histon-Girton Road but was ambushed. After the 'Cease Fire' the scouts had tea at Histon Institute 12 02 23h

1912 04 26

Romsey Town children had been in court charged with playing in Ross Street or St Philip's Road to the annoyance of the householders. Efforts had been made for 14 years to secure a public recreation ground; now land between the Council School and Mill Road is advertised for sale. It represents one of the last chances to secure an open space. The children of Romsey Town are on the whole healthy and strong and should have an opportunity of breathing fresh air on this open space, a meeting was told. 12 04 26c

1912 05 03

Two Cambridge 13-year-old boys were summonsed after P.C. Moss saw them with pistols in Fen Ditton Lane. The boys, who were in Scouts' uniform, said they'd gone there to try them and did not know they were doing wrong. The guns contained loaded cartridges which they'd bought at a shop in Sussex Street. The magistrates said he would write to the Scoutmaster. The Scouts' movement was a good one and it was bad for the corps that they should do this in uniform. The pistols were forfeited. 12 05 03b

1912 05 17

Boy Scout annual church parade – 12 05 17e

1912 05 31

The need of a better playground for the children of St Giles' Infants School has long been felt and no real surprise was occasioned when the Board of Education insisted the youngsters cease to play in the ill-adapted yard adjoining the school and that a new ground should be provided. A piece of ground was purchased and made into an excellent playground, part of it being converted into a grass plot. It was officially opened by Lady Albinia Donaldson when the opportunity was also taken to celebrate Empire Day. 12 05 31e

1912 06 07

Mr I.G. Elworthy told a meeting at Morley School that he had been one of the first members of Cherry Hinton parish council in 1894. When he first came there were only 50 houses but the district had developed enormously and the need for a recreation ground was very urgent. With the enormous increase of motor traffic it became more and more dangerous for children to play in the streets. The Council should purchase a site between Cherry Hinton Road and Mill Road and in the meantime the Cattle Market field should be laid out as a temporary playground. It could be planted with trees like Christ's Pieces and would preserve the beauty of the district 12 06 07d & e

1913 05

Scouts: 400 at rally, Downing College [1.3]

1913 06 06

Cambridge Sea scouts opened their new riverside headquarters at Pocock's Boatyard. It consists of two capital rooms like cabins on board ship, one fitted up as a workshop, the other containing various games. They also launched their new boat, named The Albert, built of pine and elm with six oars and a mast, capable of carrying 10 boys. 13 06 06 p10 CIP

1913 08 15

The Romsey Town holiday play centres organised by the National Union of Women Workers have met with great approval. The centre for girls and infants is the Cambridge United Football Ground. It is a pretty sight to enter the spacious well-shaded field and see the children all at their happy occupations, crayoning, building castles out of bricks or tugging toy engines about. On the grandstand children dress dolls or knit while in a shady spot there are swings. Games such as cricket, shuttlecock and the maypole have been arranged. 13 08 15 p12 CIP

1913 08 29

Romsey town play centre was the first time an effort has been made to provide organised games for elementary school children during the summer vacation and had more than justified itself with over 9,000 youngsters at various times. Romsey was essentially a working class district where children are unable to spend a week by the sea. Two centres had been opened, the girls using Cambridge United Football Club's ground, the boys on a field near the allotment. It was much better than street games which are dangerous because of motor cars and the youngsters were not running wild about the streets. 13 08 29 p6 CIP

1914 08 14

Cambridge scouts guard telephone exchange - 14 08 14 p2

1914 09 11

When the war began Cambridge Scouts were anxious to help and a committee was formed. Requests came from every quarter. For the first fortnight Scout patrols, aided by members of the C.U.O.T.C., guarded by day and night the important telegraph wires on the Newmarket to London road. Some were sent to Ramsgate and Sandwich to do coastguard work until replaced by military authorities. Others assisted in the recreation and refreshment tents for the military camps on Midsummer Common, Coldham's Common, Coe Fen, Parker's Piece, Huntingdon Road and Stourbridge Common. They have provided a secretary and bugler for Major Comber at Pembroke College and at

Corpus the Board of Military Studies has used them as messengers. They have collected large quantities of magazines and papers for the military hospitals at the Leys School and Trinity College. Now they are returning to school 14 09 11

1915 02 19

The YMCA is doing invaluable service to troops. Their headquarters in Alexandra Street is crowded with soldiers and 'ping-pong' or billiards is popular. In the basement a lady was giving a French lesson. Troops who prefer a book and cosy chair appreciate the reading room or write letters. Two centres are managed entirely by students while at the Cherryhinton Hut Barracks a large hut has been erected. This is currently open to soldiers only because of the illness prevalent at the camp. At Hartington Grove a house has been furnished with tables and chairs, Tracy Hall in Romsey Town is also popular and 80 men visit Emmanuel Church Hall nightly where concerts are promoted with soldiers as artistes. 15 02 19

1917 01 03

1st Cambridge Brownies believed be oldest Brownie pack in world, 1st meeting 3.1.1917 [Misc.2.2]

1917 06 20

Chief Scout at Rally. Although some disappointment was felt at the non-appearance at the appointed time of General Baden-Powell, the Chief Scout, the rally of Cambridge, Newmarket and Ely Boy Scouts on Sheep Green, Cambridge last Wednesday was carried through with great success. "The Chief," after being delayed several hours through an air raid over London, turned up later in the afternoon, accompanied by the Member for the Borough (Mr. Almeric Paget 17 06 20 CIPof 17 06 20a; pictures 20c

1919 05 09

Girl Guides inspected - the rally of the Cambridge and District Girl Guides in the grounds of Homerton College (Cambridge) and the inspection by Lady Baden-Powell, proved a highly attractive and successful venture. After the inspection the Guides sang, "For 'she's a jolly good Fellow," 19 04 16 CIPof [1.7] – 19 05 09a, 19 04 16a

1920

1920 02 20

Shelter for Girls (Church Street Mission) founded 1854; its work explained - CDN 20 02 20

1920 05 05

New Street Men's Bible Class memories in lantern lecture; boys revolted when teacher struck lad – Ch 20 05 05a

1920 12 29

Children's Christmas Toy and Present Fund, Eden Street distributes gifts poor children – photo – Ch 20 12 29b

1922 06 27

The Chief Scout, Lieut.-General Sir R.S.S. Baden-Powell is on a visit to Cambridge and yesterday witnessed a Scout rally by the Cambridge & District Boys Scouts in Queens' College Grove. On entering the Grove the Chief was surrounded by Scouts, who had been in ambush. They cried his Zulu name as they gathered around him and then sang him a chorus of welcome called "Ingonyama". Translated the worlds sung mean "He is a lion. He is a lion. He is greater than a lion. He is an hippopotamus 22 06 27

1922 12 07

Councillors and representatives of Boys' Clubs met to discuss the possibility of providing recreation, together with some useful occupation for the ninety odd lads between the ages of 14 and 19 who are

now unemployed in Cambridge. A large number of these boys were running the streets and probably deteriorating through idleness and lack of discipline. The Council had tried an experiment in the form of a gymnasium, but it fell through. The boys were at a very critical stage of growth, and it was dangerous for them to be going about the streets with nowhere to go. At home they were not wanted. They were getting in a very dangerous frame of mind, for they felt they were inferior to others 22 12 07

1924 10 08

Two hundred children are in attendance four nights per week at the play centres at Barnwell Abbey and New Street schools. There the number attending exceed the accommodation and the staff, one woman had 98 children to look after & voluntary help was continually breaking down. Alderman Starr asked if they were taking children from parents who wanted to go to the pictures. The centres were established some years ago under voluntary control, the Education committee providing accommodation, light and heat 24 10 08

1926 05 28

Cambridge councillors heard that in 1912 a piece of land in Shelley Row, together with the house adjoining was given anonymously to the Corporation as a perpetual playground to the children of Castle End. It was assumed that the rent of the house would be available for the upkeep and improvement of the playground. £80 would be required to make a really satisfactory playground; it was resolved to spend £20 on putting the ground in order 26 05 28

1926 10 15

The old Albert Institute, Grafton Street, Cambridge was the scene of great enthusiasm on the opening of new headquarters for the Cambridge Boy Scouts' Association which will supply a much-felt want. Afterwards the presentation of medals for athletics and swimming took place. An enjoyable sing-song followed and then a meeting of leaders who discussed the uses to which the headquarters could be put. Meanwhile refreshments were served to allay the pangs of hunger caused by such enthusiasm. Lantern slides on India and China were shown by Assistant Commissioner W.B. Gourlay and the evening closed with everybody in the best of spirits 26 10 15

1928 03 05

Over 1,000 Scouts raised their voices in a Zulu chorus when their Chief, Sir Robert Baden-Powell attended their mammoth rally at Cambridge Guildhall. They packed the hall nearly to the point of solidity including Sea Scouts and University Rovers and some 600 Wolf Cubs. The Chief Scout was accompanied by Dr Eastman, the Great Chief of the Sioux Indians, who is commissioner of the Scouts of America. He wore complete Redskin garb with the traditional head-dress of eagles' feathers. The scouts were very interested in his tomahawk. 28 03 05 [1.10]

1930

1931 01 02

Christmas Day festivities at the Home of Mercy in Christchurch Street, Cambridge were spent in the usual manner. The chapel was decorated with lilies and carnations presented by two of the married girls as a mark of appreciation. Everyone attended Christ Church at 7 and 11 am and then enjoyed a bountiful dinner. Each girl found in her pudding a piece of money which is to be presented to Addenbrooke's Hospital building fund. Evensong was sung in chapel after which a pantomime (on the wireless) was enjoyed until the day came to a close at 9.30. 31 01 02e

1931 11 13

Scouters and Rovers mingled with grave dons in academic dress at the Senate House when a degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa was conferred upon Lord Baden-Powell. The Chief Scout wore his accustomed uniform with his scarlet doctor's robe above it. The Public Orator said his soldiery in Mafeking made him so famous and popular that the boys of Britain chose him as their exemplar in many virtues and patriotism. 31 11 13f g h [1.5, 1.11]

Baden Powell message scouts – 31 11 13g & photos of his degree – 31 11 13h

1932 02 03

Cambridge Young Men's Christian Association cancelled the letting of their hall to an exhibition on education in Soviet Russia. Amongst the exhibits were anti-religious posters which upset several prominent clergymen who wrote to the News protesting. The organisers are looking for another hall so the exhibition can continue. 32 02 03

1932 08 12

The greatest Guide camp Cambridgeshire has ever known is taking place in Chippenham Park to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the movement. As I motored round the camp we saw on all sides healthy, merry, laughing girls, filled with the zest that only life in the glorious open can give. A clump of huge beeches is the site of a huge camp fire where every one of the 600 Guiders gather round the blazing logs to sing and yarn, the night sky overhead and the smell of wood smoke in their nostrils. Then are friendships made. 32 08 12f & g

1935 05 11

The new West Chesterton children's playground off Histon Road was opened by the Mayor and hundreds of youngsters thronged the ground for the occasion. Since it was bought as an orchard three years ago an immense amount of work had been necessary. It was not complete and they were hoping for swings and perhaps a roundabout later. It is primarily intended for younger children and not for the playing of hard-ball games such as cricket but old and middle-aged people could also enjoy the ground for sitting about. 35 05 11b

1940

1940 03 02

Girl Guiders rally Cambridge – photo – 40 03 02

1940 12 03

Girl guides in war-time: what they are doing – 40 12 03b

1941 01 11

Baden Powell in Cambridge – memories of scouting – 41 01 11a

1942 06 10

Sea Cadets force launched for lads 14-17 – 42 06 10

1942 07 02

Girls' Training Corps established, many in uniform – 42 07 02a

1942 08 17

Four main schools close for summer holidays – poor response to scheme for voluntary attendance at school during holidays to counter-balance the dearth of holiday facilities in wartime – 42 08 17b

1943 07 02

New nursery for 50 children opened at Ditton Fields – third day nursery – 43 07 02; an example to whole country – 43 07 02b; photo – 43 07 19

1943 07 08

YMCA opens 18th centre in area – 43 07 08

1944 05 05

Scout Inspection. There was a fine muster of 500 for the annual St. George's Day service of the Cambridge Boy Scouts Association, held, at Cambridge on Sunday. The parade was made up of

Scouters, Scouts, Rovers and Wolf Cubs and included troops from the district and also Cambridge University Rovers. District Scoutmaster R. P Ellwood was in charge of the parade, which formed up on Parker's Piece, and to music provided by the 5th Cambs Home Guard Band, marched to Holy Trinity Church 44 05 05 CIPof

1944 10 05

Cambridge Sea Cadet Corps take Oyster Bar, Garlic Row for HQ; dates back to 1707 – 44 10 05

1945 10 03

New YMCA for East Barnwell opened – CDN 1945 10 03

1947 04 09

Twelve months ago, when landing craft were offered for sale to the public, the 12th Cambridge Scout Group bought one, and under the direction of their Scoutmaster, Mr W.A. Mackrow, they set to work with a will to convert it for troop use. On Saturday the result of their hard work and skill - a trim looking and extremely comfortable seaworthy craft was named the "Adventurer". Founder of the troop in 1911, its first Scoutmaster - and a staunch supporter ever since - Mr J. Murrish performed the ceremony, which took place at Peterhouse boat yard. In just under twelve months the group have transformed the hull and converted it into its present form, complete with bridge, containing full navigation equipment and remote engine controls etc. It has a ward room which sleeps 12, and a galley which would delight the heart of many a housewife 47 04 09

1947 10 06

In the converted green and cream day nursery, and to the happy shouts of the little ones playing in the spacious garden outside, the Harvey Goodwin House, Harvey Goodwin Avenue, which has been adapted from a Home for boys to a nursery for babies and toddlers in the care of the Church of England Children's Society (formerly the "Waifs and Strays") was opened by Lady Whitby. It will accommodate 20 children who remain there until adopted or boarded out. Many friends gathered in the day nursery which has been ideally adapted for the purpose with its cheerful colour scheme, gay chintz curtains at the big windows, nursery pictures on the walls and evidence of its young occupants in the soft toys scattered around 47 10 06

1947 11 17

The S.O.S. Society's Boys' Hostel at Winston House, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge was officially opened in the presence of a large audience, including magistrates from the surrounding district. Lord Huntingfield spoke its work in relation to its care for boys who had either come into contact with Probation Officers or had homes that were not particularly desirable. He commented "Youth, being what it is, does not always recognise the laws of the grown-ups and they are inclined to do things which bring them into conflict with the long arm of the law. These are the kind of boys taken in here and looked after". 47 11 17

1948 09 11

When the East Road Boys' Club reopens in its new premises behind the St John's Mission Church in Wellington Street, Cambridge, another year of really constructive work by its members will have begun. This club has proved what great feats can be accomplished when a team of boys learn to work together and understand their responsibilities to the community and club. The boys' ages range from 14 to 18 and their programme is designed to create a balance in their physical, spiritual and mental development. During the past year, for example, they won the Pointer Cup for boxing. It is run entirely by voluntary effort and has a membership of 100 boys c48 09 11

1949 10 06

The proposal to buy St John's hall, Wellington St, Cambridge, for use as the East Road Boys' Club was criticised. The building was described as "a filthy hovel, scheduled for demolition and without sun and air", part had been condemned as unsafe some years ago. "It is a place I would not want to

put pigs in”, said Coun. Dennard. Mrs Rackham agreed it was a poor neighbourhood, but thought it would take years and years for the whole of the district to be demolished 49 10 06

1949 10 12

Another step in the plan to provide nursery schools throughout Cambridge has been taken in the opening of the new nursery school at Cherry Hinton. Priority is given to the children of mothers who are working or are ill and although it is a town school it has a strong local bias. It is ideally situated on the ground floor of Cherry Hinton Hall. The house was acquired by Cambridge council in the 1930s and has subsequently been used as a youth hostel and a maternity and child welfare clinic c49 10 11

1950

1950 12 18

Dennis Collins and his wife, Jean, are two local people making good in the entertainment world and much in demand at parties. Dennis got a job with the Hunstanton council to act, with Jean, as universal uncle and aunt to children on holiday there. Throughout the summer they were to be found on the sands, running children’s’ games, skipping contests and sand-design competitions. Dennis taught himself conjuring with the aid of a couple of books borrowed from the Cambridge public library and is now a member of the Magic Circle. Jean, who was a pupil of the Mackenzie School of Music and Drama, played the piano and sang 50 12 18

1951 03 01

Congratulations from the town, University and church were showered upon the Cambridge branch of the Y.M.C.A. at a special luncheon to commemorate the foundation of the birth exactly 100 years ago. The Mayor said he had personally known the Y.M.C.A. for at least half of its existence in Cambridge and had seen with great pride its growth. He referred to their object of helping in the spiritual side of a young man’s life and their wish to make them grow up into healthy, strong and virile young men. In the 1914-18 war they went to great lengths to provide entertainment for the troops.

1951 10 02

Members of a new company of the Boys’ Brigade were seen in their first church parade and march past in the Newmarket Road area of Cambridge on Sunday. The company, that of Ditton Fields Free Church, is at the beginning of its career; it is hoped that by October there will be a sufficient number of recruits to justify the company being fully enrolled in the Brigade. It was augmented by the 5th Cambridge Company which has been established more than 50 years. Mr H.A. Twinn told them: “You must have discipline if you are to do anything at all”. Some boys organisations had been compared with Hitler’s youth movement but their members were trained in a helpful and Christian way of life, he said 51 10 02

1952 04 05

Members of the Boy Scouts’ Association will unite in congratulating Mr W.A. Mackrow, Assistant County Commissioner and scoutmaster of the 12th Cambridge (Viscount Clifden’s Own) Scout group on the award of the Silver Acorn in the St George’s Day Honours List. He has played a prominent part in Cambridge scouting for many years and has special interest in the Sea Scouts whose well-equipped motor boat ‘The Adventurer’ is a well-known feature of the Cam. 52 04 05

1955 11 17

Cambridge Boys Club in Wellington Street is meeting a real need since it opened six years ago. Councillor Burkitt said the first time he went there the noise was terrific, there was not a single pane left unbroken and the club was very disorderly. Now it was well-run and had established a tradition of decent behaviour and loyalty; the boys took pride in making it a credit to the community 55 11 17a

1957 05 13

In the early days in Cambridge a scout would buy a broomstick, which cost 2d, and a billy-can and spend weekends in the woods and country places round the city. Later such boys became scoutmasters

but during the Great War troops had to run themselves. Then in 1925 they secured headquarters in Grafton Street which they'd sold to the Co-operative Society. Now the new Scout Headquarters in Perne Road was opened. 57 05 13d [Misc.4.5, 1.12]

1957 06 12

Daphne Harrington suffers from 'fragile bones' which means she must spend her days in a plaster cast and be moved about in a wheeled bed. But she runs an active Brownie company, earns money by typing, designing knitting patterns and making small household articles. So she was not going to let her disability prevent her going on holiday. She left her Selwyn Road home in an ambulance to journey to Norway where she will join other handicapped girl guides in a camp halfway up a mountain. 57 06 12a

1957 07 01

Last year an Adventure Playground started on a patch of rough ground bordering Newmarket Road. Cambridge council gave a generous quantity of odd timber, other people provided tree trunks and old motor tyres. But it all vanished during the winter. Now they are seeking more together with an old motor car chassis, corrugated iron, bricks, pick-axes, hammers, nails and other lumber. They also need a strong lockable shed to keep it in. 57 07 01

1957 07 22

The Adventure Playground off Newmarket Road does not seem to be wanted, judging from a lively meeting. Residents said was being used by hooligans who broke up the equipment and should be moved far from homes where a nuisance is likely to be caused. They called for the area to be used as tennis courts instead. 57 07 22 & 22a

1957 08 14

Scouts from 84 parts of the world attended an International Conference in Cambridge, following the World Jubilee Jamboree. The bright blue caps from Finland, flowing white kaffiyeh and agae from Lebanon, broad hats from Mexico and the red tarbouch from Morocco were a colourful sight in the Guildhall where they were welcomed by the Mayor, Councillor B. White 57 08 14a & 17 [Misc.4.5, 1.13]

1957 10 19

Residents living near the 'adventure playground' on the Whitehill Estate, Newmarket Road have protested against the things that happen there. Bad language – really filthy barrack room stuff – is a constant annoyance, noise is at a high level with children beating on drums and fuel tanks and the staccato bark of the old motor cycle housed on the ground, especially when it is running without a silencer. It is a place where parents of decent families prevent their children from going, attracts the wrong type of youth and encourages the formation of gangs 57 09 13a & b

1957 10 19

Adventure playground abandoned – 57 10 19

1958 02 02

Cambridge Boys Club in St John's Hall, Wellington Street is flourishing under the leadership of Chris Silcock. Despite the volume of noise the youngsters are not idle. In well-equipped workshops they are taught woodwork and metalwork while the more artistic are instructed in modelling and painting. There is table tennis, P.T. and boxing along with photography, chess, talks and trips abroad. Parents attend on open nights when the fun is shared by all 58 02 22

1958 04 23

Boys Brigade hut, Chesterton Methodist church – 58 04 23b

1958 06 27

Leys School scouts jubilee – 58 06 27b

1958 09 13

An Adventure Playground run at Newmarket Road attracted 60 youngsters. There was bad language at first, destructive activities by local roughs created great difficulties and neighbours objected. The children tunnelled, built huts and dens, made swings of ropes and tyres, lit fires and roasted potatoes. They also made boats, guns, swords and a puppet theatre. Some put an old motor cycle into running order. 58 09 13 & a

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960 01 06

Cambridge Boys club Wellington St, formerly East Road Boys Club; borough took over 1949, bought Wellington St St Johns Hall 1951, workshops etc 1958; to close 1960 due decreasing membership [1.2]

1960 02 17

Cambridge Children's Playground Association was started after builders complained about children playing destructively with their building materials and when it was noticed that the ordinary playgrounds did not attract many youngsters. The first experimental playground was in Newmarket Road and now one may be formed on the Arbury Estate. There are hundreds of children who have already formed the habit of playing in the streets and in the shopping precinct while the estate has waited six years for a playground. The spinney at Cherry Hinton would also be an ideal site for an 'adventure playground' 60 02 17

1960 05 17

East Barnwell's new scout hall opened – 60 05 17

1960 07 07

In order to rescue the Arbury Estate from the 'grave danger of creating deserts of asphalt' a playground should be constructed on a site between Alex Wood Road and Mere Way. It would have a mound of earth 15 feet high and an open flat area providing scope for ball games, tricycles, marbles etc with a play park equipped with vertical and horizontal tree trunks. The ground is to be made deliberately uneven with mounds and hollows for imaginative play. But swings have been condemned as dangerous and expensive 60 07 07

1960 08 04

Tents of all colours and groups of girls kneeling before wood fires in the grounds of Pampisford Hall mark the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Guiding. Many of the nearly 680 Guides and Rangers aged between 11 and 21 year are experiencing this type of outdoor living for the first time. They include girls from Lithuania, Germany, Greece and Nigeria together with one suffering from poliomyelitis and another encased in a spinal jacket who cannot even lift her head The amenities are perfectly adequate. Water had been laid on, each group collects its daily rations from a central source and milk is delivered from a nearby farm. 60 08 04

1960 09 16

This week some 61 youth clubs will open their doors to admit close on 3,000 teenagers. After a short summer break they will become the centre of activities from jazz to judo, coffee drinking to canoe building. Whether in a small village hall or a new village college the records go on for dancing, out come the table-tennis bats and badminton rackets. In fact anything to keep youth happy, anything useful, anything which stimulates thought or encourages interest 60 09 16a

1960 09 20

Freebooters Coffee Bar & club opens Wellington Street by student Ridley Hall, no rules, appeal £20,000, 400 members 1961, closed down, student resigned, decline membership, financial difficulties 1963

1960 09 28

Jive sessions at the British Legion Hall in Fisher Lane, Cherry Hinton, attract teenagers from the surrounding villages. There is no problem with the dancing which was marvellously well organised and no alcoholic drinks are sold. It filled a need for young people and had been successful since it started a year ago. But residents complain that the noise of motor cycles revving up and roaring down the lane keeps children awake and also ruins their television pictures. 60 09 28

1960 10 14

The Freebooters Coffee Bar and Club in Wellington Street was set up through the determination of John Ewen, a theological student at Ridley Hall. It has full-sized billiard & table-tennis tables & a dart board. But there are no rules. Soon youngsters banned from other coffee bars because of damage started to drop in. A key concern was motor cycles but plans are under way for a maintenance shop and a 'scramble'. They had teething troubles: the record player was stolen and all the records taken, but they were brought back and now various sports clubs have been formed. 60 10 14

1960 12 16

Freebooters Coffee Bar and Club appeal – 60 12 16b

1961 01 11

Freebooters coffee bar appeal for funds – 61 01 11a

1961 02 16

Freebooters Coffee bar redecorated – photos – 61 02 16

1962 02 16

When Miss I.G. Long was asked to start a Wolf Cub pack she did not know anything about the movement. But armed with the Jungle Book, on which the clubs are based, she formed a pack in the parish of St Barnabas and boys came from as far away as Comberton and Abington. That was in 1930, the same year as the St John's pack began under the leadership of Miss F.E. Isaacson. Both ladies are still working for the cubs 62 02 16

1962 03 26

The Central Youth Centre in York Street has closed after twelve years. The farewell dance, with music provided by Johnny Cullen and his Dawnbreakers, was a great success. The hard core members were quite subdued and seemed really sorry that the club was having to close. But youth leader L. Casey is leaving and the lease is expiring. However there are ample facilities for those who wish to join other clubs. 62 03 26

1962 11 15

The Freebooters Club opened two years ago in an old converted church hall in Wellington Street, Cambridge, which is damp, dingy and has dry-rot. At that time school-leavers wishing to join youth clubs had to join in formal activity. Not wishing to do this they drifted to the coffee bars on the outskirts of the city. When these closed they were left with nowhere to go. The Freebooters filled the gap with a coffee bar and juke box. Originally it was a 'toughs' club but times have changed. Now it will be modernised with a dance hall, tv lounge, snooker room and motor cycle repairs workshop 62 11 15f

1963 01 02

The Freebooters Club has closed down. It was started in Wellington Street for youngsters who could not fit into the regular pattern of youth activities. It had done good work and some of the young people who had been 'unclubable' had settled down in other established youth clubs. But there has

been a recent heavy decline in club membership and an adverse financial position had been reached. John Ewan, the University theological student who started it two years ago, was thanked for his inspiration in forming the club and wholehearted devotion to the task of running it. 63 01 02

1964 06 24

East Barnwell youth centre opened – 64 06 24a

1964 11 19

At Coleridge Youth Centre the hall vibrated with the sound of the latest pop tune. Outside the air was filled with the sound of motor cycles and scooters as more youths arrived. Youngsters were playing cards, table tennis and billiards, in one corner a group of girls sat talking. In between dances they sauntered to the canteen for a cup of coffee, a Coco Cola and a glance at the pile of magazines specially chosen for young people. It has a current membership of 300 of which two-thirds are boys. The future will depend on a comprehensive new youth centre to be started shortly at St Matthew's Piece 64 11 19c

1964 12 02

The twin estates of South Arbury and King's Hedges has hardly any social amenities with just one youth club which runs one evening a week in the Manor School canteen. Now Arbury Amenities Association has called for the development of a community centre and recreation ground on the corner of Campkin and Arbury Roads. There is always the danger of young children getting involved in accidents if they have to play in the roadway, especially as heavy lorries use it on their way to building sites. The licensee of the Snowcat public house says there are several hundred teenagers who have nowhere to go in the evenings except city centre dance halls. 64 12 02b

1964 12 03

East Barnwell Youth Club meets in specially-built premises. The décor of the hall is purposeful and modern, the coffee bar is well patronised and the quiet room provides seclusion for a chat away from the noise of table tennis balls and record player. Activities include chess, draughts and billiards. But girls complain the boys won't dance unless organised dance nights are arranged. Members are working on a pantomime which they plan to give in children's homes. They are also collecting silver paper to purchase guide dogs for the blind. 64 12 03

1964 12 09

The Sunday night 'Drop-in' Youth Club in Wellington Street provides somewhere for youngsters to get to know each other. There is table tennis, snooker and badminton together with a coffee bar and a juke box providing music for dancing. Some girls complain that boys will not ask them to dance but the boys say if they do they get stared at. They come because they are bored, there is nothing to do, nowhere else to go. Many houses are so small they can get little privacy and parents may lose their peace because a radio or record player is blaring, they say. But it's sad they cannot find companionship and interests at home, just one night a week. 64 12 09

1965 01 14

Rag Day proceeds may be used to fund a youth centre for young people who live and work here. The bankside opposite Magdalene College would be an ideal site. There are good reasons: the college buildings are now awkwardly sited in relation to town development and will always be an encumbrance in terms of planning. Townspeople have to pay higher rates because of the specially low rating allowed the colleges and industrial development has been restricted which would have provided new industries. As it is many children have to go to other towns to earn their livings. And when they reach marriageable age they have difficulty finding housing since so much land is taken up by the university.– 65 01 14a

1965 01 21

Victoria Road Congregational Youth Club attracts 50 15-21 year-olds each week. There is a large hall and they can dance or play games, talk and drink coffee. The highlights include punt parties, sausage

sizzles and barbecues. In spite of the austerity of the hall there is a genuine air of friendliness. Organisers have tried to introduce more serious activities but they have not proved too popular. The evenings end with a short epilogue, though the influence of religion is not particularly stressed. 65 01 21a

1965 02 04

Sturton Street Methodist Church youth club has a membership of 50. Meeting on Friday evenings their activities are a little restricted but they offer a fairly varied programme. Most activities take place in the church hall and the adjoining kitchen is used for light refreshments. But in addition to the social and recreational aims, they also have an educational and spiritual element with talks, film shows and a discussion on topics of interest. A short lesson, hymn and prayer is given at the end. A youth fellowship meets on Sunday afternoons for bible study 65 02 04b

1965 03 24

Cambridge Sea Cadet unit was formed in 1941 to provide healthy recreation for young citizens. They used school premises until 1950 when Nissen huts were made available on the riverside at Halingway. But these are now altogether untenable and a new headquarters, "T.S. Ganges" built complete with quarter deck, lecture rooms, canteen and a wireless office. 65 03 24b Sea Cadet new HQ to open – history - 65 08 28a

1965 04 26

Guide headquarters in Perne Road opened by Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell – 65 04 26a

1965 05 21

Work to start on new youth club, St Matthew's Piece; reviews youth club provision – 65 05 21b

1965 07 14

Mill Road youth club - police move on [1.7]

1966 03 14

Cambridge International Centre established 7 years ago to close, intended international friendship & understanding & social intercourse foreigners [1.8]

1966 04 27

Adventure playgrounds needed; survey of existing facilities at Coleridge, Lammas Land – 66 04 27a

1967 10 04

Teenagers want coffee bars & discos [1.9]

1967 12 08

At present one liveliest meeting points YMCA Catacombs coffee bar, new Youth Centre soon [1.10]

1967 12 08

Howard Mallet Youth Club to meet needs of new generation of young folk - 67 12 08, 08a

1968 05 10

Youth Hostel opens [2.1]

1969 02 19

Howard Mallet youth club in working class sector of city, games area, juke-box, dances, wall tv, new age of luxury for youth [1.1,1.11]

1970 04 03

Y.M.C.A. celebrate centenary – feature – 70 04 03e

1970 07 10

Hope Tebbutt started first nursery school in Cambridge 45 years ago, Stagsholt Nursery School Gresham Road for poorer areas; was 15 years before another – 70 07 10

1971 01 02

Alderman Howard Mallet, champion of youth, dies; worked for scouts for 50 years, youth club named after him – 70 01 02

1971 03 20

YMCA to celebrate centenary by move from Alexandra Street to Gonville Place – 71 03 30a

1971 04 05

Dr Barnardo's home in Fitzwilliam Road to close after 20 years; only five children remain – 71 04 05

1971 04 26

Boy Scouts 1,200 scouts & cubs at St Georges Day service Guildhall [Misc.4.5]

1971 09 27

World Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell visits Perne Road HQ – 71 09 27

1972 05 09

Leading groups from the world of Soul, Beat and Pop are to be booked for a new season of entertainment at the Howard Mallett Youth Club, built at a cost of £60,000, four years ago as a "drop-in" club for youngsters in the city. Discotecheque equipment costing £200 is also being installed for a new programme of Sunday discos. "We intend to get back our crowds of 200 for the discos and 500 for the dances" said the warden. Nearly half the area of the club is devoted to the coffee and snack bar and lounges. "There is no sort of membership. Anyone over 17 can drop in to meet friends and talk. The admission is 5p 72 05 09

1973 01 17

New Manor youth centre opens [1.12]

1973 08 31

YMCA building [2.2]

1974 08 02

The 1¼ acre Arbury adventure playground looks like a wild-west stockade, with tall telegraph poles visible above the high fencing and a tattered union jack blowing in the breeze. It lies on the northern edge of the housing estate. As many as 250 children are likely to be there during the school holidays. It was parents on the estate who got the venture going and raised the initial money. Fencing alone cost more than £1,000. Since then the city council have helped with grants 74 08 02

1974 12 05

YMCA new building opened; established 1851, foundation stone 1870, was designed Alfred Waterhouse & opened 1870, move Gonville Place temporary building 1971 when closed [Misc.5.2]

1975 09 15

Cambridge's 13th scout group officially opened its new headquarters in Romsey Town. In little more than a year they managed to raise the £6,000 needed and get the building constructed on the site of two old scout huts. Some 200 people watched Dr Winifred Nott, the sister of the original Nott brothers who helped establish the group before the first world war, cut the tape and unveil a plaque to mark the official opening c75 09 19

1976 12 13

The Cambridge Scouts' shop in Perne Road celebrated 50 years of existence. Known first as the Equipment Store it opened in a rifle range half way up the stairs at the old Grafton Street headquarters on 13th December 1926. The shop's manager, Mr Kenneth North, took over in 1934. He remained when the shop moved temporarily to Russell Street and then to the new Scout headquarters in 1956. Mr John Chambers has been associated with it since he joined as a boy in 1940 & Roger Woollard, Scout leader running the 13th Cambridge Scouts Group, also helps out 76 12 13

1980

1980

Romsey Mill centre opens - former Methodist church [1.13]

1983 01 04

Boys Brigade centenary year celebrations – 83 01 04a

1986 03 08

Young people in Cambridge have come up with a revolutionary idea for a new late night rock music venue in the middle of the busy roundabout in Elizabeth Way. It is centrally situated and its underground location would cut down disturbance. But it would be expensive and there would be problems of access for emergency vehicles. Councillors think the former Cattle Market on Clifton industrial estate is a better option. If the venture failed the site could be converted back to industrial use with a smaller financial loss. But they have asked officials to make a feasibility study of both sites 86 03 08

1986 09 21

'Thirty Three' is a new walk-in centre for young people funded by Save The Children. Based in Clarendon Street the confidential service has voluntary counsellors who will listen to youngsters' fears on any aspect of life including difficulties with parents or boyfriends, anorexia or abortion. They will offer no criticism and never pass judgement but instead offer positive help. College students have their own counselling services, but there is nothing comparable for other 86 09 21a

1987 03 19

European Scouts, distinguished on parade by a traditional uniform of wide-brimmed hats and shorts, are making their mark in the Cambridge area. Locally they were born amid controversy three years ago when a Girton group, then belonging to the mainstream Scout Association, switched to the Federation of European Scouting. Together with groups in Waterbeach and Chesterton, bringing numbers to 140, they now account for 10% of European Scouts in England. They stick closer to the original Baden Powell principles – concentration on skills that can't be classroom learned. 87 03 19

1988 01 27

Joice Taylor of Girton comes from an academic family. She has organised the Cambridge Lectures for young people which have run each Christmas at the University Engineering Department from 1963. Under the chairman, Dr Ronald Gray, the lectures by experts in their field cover topics such as spiders, snakes and scorpions, how the weather is forecast, a talk by Mary Archer about solar energy [and even some by a young Mike Petty]. 88 01 27

1988 02 16

Boy Scout groups tracing history – feature - 88 02 16

1990 06 27

Romsey Mill community centre Romsey Town opened 1980 to promote relations between youth and the community; opens alcohol-free bar for young people – 90 06 27b